

BAER, ARBEITER, PLOSHNICK, TANENBAUM & WEISS, LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

344 MAIN STREET

P.O. BOX 311

METUCHEN, N.J. 08840

JOHN F. KWASNICK

MEMBER NJ, PA, CT & DC BARS

GRISSELE CAMACHO-PAGAN

GERALD F. DELLA SALA

STEVEN M. TANENBAUM

LEONARD D. WEISS

MEMBER NJ, NY & DC BARS

PHILLIP B. LINDER

MEMBER NJ & FL BARS

JAY D. ARBEITER

DAVID M. BAER

DAVID L. PLOSHNICK

OF COUNSEL

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(732) 549-9577

FAX: (732) 549-9520

Jose P. Sierra, Esq.
Legal Department
Schering Plough
2000 Galloping Hill Road
Kenilworth, NJ 07033

RE: HBA Judicial Appointments Committee

Dear Jose:

As the new Chair of the committee you should have the enclosed documents and information.

During the 2002-2003 year endorsement letters were sent on behalf of the following:

Hon. Diana Montes – for Superior Court

Hon. Joseph Cerame – for Presiding Judge of the Newark Municipal Court

Luis Valentin, Esq.- for Essex County Prosecutor

Virginia Class-Matthews, Esq. – for Superior Court

Ivette Alvarez, Esq.- for Superior Court

Lourdes Santiago, Esq.- for Superior Court

Michelle Labrada, Esq.- for Deputy Public Defender for Middlesex County

Zulima V. Farber, Esq.- for NJ Supreme Court

The letters were all sent from Pedro's office under his signature. I am sure he has copies of them.

You may recall that Pedro sent a letter to all sitting Latino Municipal Court and Workers' Compensation judges asking if they were interested in endorsement for Superior Court. I enclose the resumes that he received in response to that letter from Hon. Richard Nieto, Hon. Nilda Hernandez, Hon. Joseph Cerame and Hon. Michael Toto. At the time Pedro told me that he expected to get more resumes with requests for endorsements, so it was decided to wait until

he received them all before the committee took any action. I did not receive any other resumes. Perhaps Pedro has some additional ones.

Ivette Alvarez and I attended a recent meeting of women lawyers with the Governor. Michael DeCottis was present. When Ivette Alvarez asked the Governor about the Supreme Court vacancy and judgeships in general, DeCottis piped up and said that he would be happy to meet with the HBA regarding that issue. As you know the two meetings we set up with him this past year were canceled at Pedro's direction. I suggest that you or Pedro set up a meeting with him on this issue. I don't know who is in charge of judicial appointments in that office now. Last year it was Emory Ungrady. He was open to receiving calls from me to find out about vacancies and where candidates were in the process. He only gave very general information about candidates. It would be worthwhile to find out who took over his function and to get a dialogue going with that person. Annette Quijano is working in that office and may also be a good person to talk with.

I wish you much success in your work as the Chair of the committee. You can call me if there is anything further you need from my files.

Very truly yours,

Grissele Camacho-Pagan
Grissele Camacho-Pagan

Enc.

C: Pedro Jimenez, Esq. (without enc)